



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
San Diego Public Library

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**Allied Craftsmen of San Diego Exhibit Works at Mission Valley Branch
Library through February 25**

Nearly Seventy Pieces by Eleven Noted Artists Are Featured

SAN DIEGO – Works by selected members of one of the city's most prestigious arts organizations, the Allied Craftsmen of San Diego, are featured in a group exhibition at the Mission Valley Branch Library through February 25, 2010. Nearly seventy pieces, primarily ceramics or ceramics combined with other materials, are on display in the library's lobby showcases. The artists are: Richard Burkett, Nan Coffin, Johanna Hansen, Jeff Irwin, Ashley Kim, Linda Litteral, Sheila Moran, Sasha K. Reibstein, Gail Schneider, Cheryl Tall, and Elizabeth Woolrich. Most of the exhibited works are available for purchase and the artists are donating a percentage of their sales to benefit the San Diego Public Library's Visual Arts Program. The Allied Craftsmen exhibition is free to the public and open during library business hours. The Mission Valley Branch Library is located at 2123 Fenton Parkway in the Fenton Marketplace shopping center. Library hours are Mondays & Wednesdays, 12:30 to 8 p.m.; Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Fridays, 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. For more information the public can call the library at (858) 573-5007.

The Allied Craftsmen of San Diego is a group of noted San Diego-area artists who work in what are traditionally regarded as crafts media: clay, metal, fiber, wood, etc. Many Allied Craftsmen teach in local colleges and universities, have national and international reputations, and are represented in important institutional and private art collections. The pieces in the Mission Valley Library exhibition are as varied as the artists themselves. They range from Gail Schneider's elegant and diminutive ceramic heads rendered with a minimum of detail to Sasha Reibstein's inventive and eccentric ceramic sculptures.

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Other exhibition highlights include Ashley Kim's pristine and impeccably executed ceramic vessels; a selection of plates by Jeff Irwin bearing images related to the environmental themes that he has been grappling with for decades; and Johanna Hansen's intricately assembled mixed-media sculptures that offer colorful and humorous commentary and narratives on the human condition. Cheryl Tall draws from a variety of inspirations and influences, including mythology, 11th Century stone sculpture, and cultures world-wide to create humorous and rough-hewn ceramic sculptures resembling folk art. According to the artist, her works "explore the vagaries of domestic life." Among the most technically ambitious and beautiful sculptures on display are two nearly life-sized, corset-like female torsos fabricated from delicately interlaced ceramic leaves. These are from Linda Litteral's "Armor: Protection Series."

NOTE TO EDITORS: A representative selection of high quality digital images is available on request from the library curator.

The San Diego Public Library's Visual Arts Program is a nationally recognized series of exhibitions, lectures, a television program, and other art-related activities. Allied Craftsmen exhibition is the most recent of more than 125 museum-quality contemporary art exhibitions that have been organized by the Visual Arts Program of the San Diego Public Library since 1997. The mission of the Program is to demonstrate the Library's role as a cultural institution embracing a broad range of disciplines, while assisting San Diego's mid-career and older professional artists in achieving wider local, regional, and national attention. Visual Arts Program exhibitions are made possible, in part, by contributions from individuals, volunteer efforts, and the Friends of Central Library. For more information about the Visual Arts Program, the public can contact the library curator at (619) 238-6627 or visit the Library's website at www.sandiegolibrary.org

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org

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